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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: SHIMIZU, Y.

SERIAL NO.: Not Yet Assigned - Express Mail Label No. EL196 831 742 US

[This is a national stage application of PCT/JP99/03019, FILED 7/7/99]

FILED: Herewith

FOR: COLLAGEN MATERIAL AND ITS PRODUCTION PROCESS

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARK
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A collagen material which is filled or had inside a substance having biocompatibility that can be degraded and absorbed in the body into a matrix of non-woven fabric-like multi-element structure of collagen fibers having ultra-fine fibers of collagen as its basic unit, wherein said non-woven fabric-like multi-element structure of collagen fibers is composed of that in which collagen plate-like fibers having a diameter of 20-50 µm are randomly intertwined, said plate-like fibers are composed of that in which collagen fibers having a diameter of 5-8 µm overlap in the coaxial direction, said fibers are composed of that in which bundled rows of narrow collagen fibers having a diameter of 1-3 µm are alternately overlapping as warp and weft, said narrow fibers are composed of that in which fine collagen fibers having a diameter of 30-70 nm are bundled, and said fine fibers are composed of that in which ultra-fine collagen fibers having a diameter of 3-7 nm that are comprised of several collagen molecules are bundled..